



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Dec 26, 2005**

**CHINA**

**WHO: China has yet to hand over samples from bird flu outbreaks**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), China has yet to hand over the tissue samples the organization has requested from 26 of China's bird flu outbreaks in poultry across the country this year. WHO officials have said that sharing such information could help formulate effective vaccines and other prevention measures. While China has given no clear explanation of why it has not yet honored WHO requests for information, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said on Tuesday (December 27) that China is willing to cooperate with the international community in efforts to combat the bird flu virus. Despite this assertion of China's willingness to cooperate, Qin offered no information on when China would begin to share the requested information.

**Source:**

• Bird flu: in China WHO says many human cases unreported, Dec 28, 2005, [http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews\\_Detail.asp?ID=3613](http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3613)

• WHO Awaits Response from China on Request for Bird Flu Samples, Dec 28, 2005, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-12-28-voa5.cfm>

**China confirms third human bird flu death**

On Thursday (December 28), China announced the country's seventh human case of bird flu and third confirmed fatality from the H5N1 deadly bird flu virus. According to Xinhua news agency, the victim was a 41-year-old woman factory worker from Sanming city in the eastern province of Fujian. According to the Ministry of Health, the woman was admitted to the hospital on December 8 with symptoms of fever and pneumonia and died on December 21. There has been no information provided on the victim's background or how she may have contracted the deadly virus. Meanwhile, there have been no officially confirmed outbreaks of bird flu in Sanming, where the woman apparently became ill. The most recently confirmed human infection in China was

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announced on December 16 in the neighboring province of Jiangxi. This latest death follows two previous confirmed deaths from bird flu in Anhui province in eastern China, as well as another suspected bird flu death in southern Hunan province. With this most recent case, China has reported seven human infections of bird flu, including three fatalities, and 31 outbreaks among poultry this year. Since late 2003, the H5N1 virus has killed more than 70 people across Asia.

**Source:**

· China announces third human bird flu death, seventh case, Dec 29, 2005, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051229/ts\\_afp/healthfluchina\\_051229152525&printer=1;\\_ylt=AusY7mYKkt3AtlvBbOAY572GOrF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051229/ts_afp/healthfluchina_051229152525&printer=1;_ylt=AusY7mYKkt3AtlvBbOAY572GOrF;_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-)  
· China confirms seventh human bird flu case, Dec 29, 2005, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20051229/wl\\_nm/birdflu\\_china\\_dc\\_2&printer=1;\\_ylt=AujFagtCjR.1J2iOiWvHs7In.3QA;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20051229/wl_nm/birdflu_china_dc_2&printer=1;_ylt=AujFagtCjR.1J2iOiWvHs7In.3QA;_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-)  
· Bird flu: in China WHO says many human cases unreported, Dec 28, 2005, [http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews\\_Detail.asp?ID=3613](http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3613)

## NEPAL

### 13 die of cough and fever

In the last month, at least 13 people, including five youth, have died of cough and fever in the remote Bicchaya village of Bajura in the far western region of Nepal. According to a Wednesday (December 28) Kantipuronline story, the illness has spread to all five wards of Bicchaya VDC and the district health office has failed to contain its spread due to a lack of adequate medicine.

**Source:**

· 13 die of cough and fever in Bajura, Dec 28, 2005, <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=60940>

## NEW ZEALAND

### Two die of meningococcal disease in Waikato, New Zealand

According to local health authorities, last month two people died of meningococcal disease in the Waikato area in New Zealand. Anita Bell, Waikato Medical Officer of Health, confirmed that while Waikato recorded 32 meningococcal cases this year, the highest in the country, these deaths were the only deaths from the disease this year. The two victims were a baby girl under the age of one and a woman in her sixties. The baby was not immunized and died of the meningococcal B strain, while the elderly woman died of another strain of the disease.

**Source:**

· Two die of meningococcal disease in Waikato, Dec 23, 2005, [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&ObjectID=10361266](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=1&ObjectID=10361266)

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## **Other World News**

### **WORLD**

#### **International organizations backing subsidy program for malaria medicines**

According to the Financial Times on Tuesday (December 27), international organizations are backing the development of a subsidy program that could make malaria medicines or artemisinin combination therapy (ACT) affordable around the world as early as 2007. Proposals for such a subsidy program are in development with the World Bank and the Roll Back Malaria partnership that includes UNICEF, the World Health Organization and western and developing nations. Officials believe that an annual subsidy of at least US\$100 million annually could serve to stimulate competition among producers of ACTs and thus reduce the price of such treatments for those worst affected by the disease. Combination drugs like ACT are seen as less likely to spawn resistance than treatments, such as artemisin on its own. This effort is seen as a positive step towards combating malaria, which kills more than one million people annually.

**Source:**

· World Bank, Dec 27, 2005, <http://www.noticias.info/asp/aspComunicados.asp?nid=131651&src=0>

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